REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated November 4, 2005.

Minor amendments have been made for clarification purposes to claims 1, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 25

without adding new matter.   Specially, claims 1, 11, and 25 have been amended to recite "a

provider network" to correct antecedent basis issues. Also, claim 14 has been amended to correct

punctuation errors.   Additionally, claim 16 has been amended to correct a typographical error

identified by the Examiner (i.e., "form" has been corrected to "from") without adding new

matter.   Further, claim 18 has been amended for clarification purposes without adding new

matter.   Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing

amendment and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 are pending.

Claims 16 and 18 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1, 11, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the

applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by

US 2003/0149576 A1 (Sunyich).

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

US 2003/0149576 A1 (Sunyich).

Claims 11-17 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over US 2003/0149576 A1 (Sunyich) in view of US 2003/0109938 A1 (Daum et al).

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Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

US 2003/0149576 A1 (Sunyich) in view of US 2003/0109938 A1 (Daum et al), and further in

view of Lee et al., U.S. Patent 4,899,373.

Claims 1, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 25 have been amended via the current amendment <u>without</u>

adding new matter.

In the Claims

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 11, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the

applicant regards as the invention. As outlined in the 'Remarks' section, minor amendments

have been made to claims 1, 11, and 25 for clarification purposes without adding new matter.

Based on the clarifying amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw

the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by

US 2003/0149576 A1 (Sunyich). To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), the cited

reference must teach for each and every feature of the rejected claim(s). Applicant respectfully

contends, and as will be shown below, that Sunyich fails to teach each and every feature of

rejected claims 1-7.

Sunyich provides for a method to electronically personalize and pre-condition a hotel

room for a hotel guest. Sunyich's method comprises the steps of: (a) storing a hotel guest's

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environmental preferences in a database prior to a hotel visit; (b) retrieving the hotel guest's environmental preferences at a later time; and (c) applying the environmental preferences to a hotel room in preparation for a guest's arrival.

Claim 1 of the present invention provides for an automated blocking system for guest accommodations, wherein the system comprises: guest accommodation that can be automatically booked by the system for use by the customer for a period of time; a provider network of a guest accommodations reservation provider having a data base for customer preference; a reserving means for communication between a home network and the provider network for reserving the guest accommodations for a period of use; preference transmission means for transmitting customer preferences from a data base of the home network to the data base of the provider network; and means of accessing the provider data base for providing the accommodations depending on the customer preferences.

Applicant wished to re-emphasize that a feature of claim 1 is a data base that is part of a provider network storing customer preferences. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to figure 4 of the application-as-filed, which depicts data base 302, which is part of the provider network and stores preference settings 303. Applicant's data base 302 represents an exemplary representation of claim 1's data base of the provider network. On page 3 of the Office Action of 11/04/2005, the Examiner cites paragraph 21 of Sunyich as teaching such a database that is part of a provider network. Paragraph 21 of Sunyich discloses guest preference database 14 that stores the hotel guest's reservation preferences and environmental preferences. According to Sunyich, preference database 14 is preferably a centralized database, whereby multiple hosts can access such a database.

As mentioned above, another feature of claim 1 is <u>a database that is part of a home network</u> storing customer preferences. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to figure 3 of the application-as-filed, which depicts data base 152, which is part of the home network and stores preference settings 153. Applicant's data base 152 represents an exemplary representation of claim 1's data base that is part of a home network. On page 3 of the Office Action of 11/04/2005, the Examiner cites paragraph 8 of Sunyich as teaching such a database that is part of a home network. Applicant respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion as a closer reading of the citation merely reveals that the database disclosed in the 'Summary of the Invention' section of paragraph 8 of Sunyich is the *same* as the previously cited guest preference database 14. Additionally, a further reading of the entire Sunyich patent reveals that guest preference database 14 (which is preferably centrally located) is the only database envisioned in various embodiments.

Applicant, therefore, submits that Sunyich neither teaches nor suggests a database that is part of a home network in addition to a database that is part of a provider network. Applicant also submits that the Examiner has erroneously equated guest preference database 14 to provide for both the features of a database that is part of a provider network <u>and</u> a database that is part of a home network. Absent such a showing, Sunyich cannot anticipate Applicant's independent claim 1.

Furthermore, yet another feature of applicant's claim 1 is a preference transmission means for transmitting customer preferences from a database of the home network to the database of the provider network. On page 3 of the Office Action of 11/04/2005, the Examiner

cites paragraph 8 of Sunyich as teaching such a transmission from a database of the home network to a database of a provider network. As mentioned earlier, paragraph 8 merely reveals that the disclosed database is the *same* as the previously cited guest preference database 14. As Sunyich fails to disclose a database that is part of a provider network and a database that is part of a home network, Applicant respectfully submits that it would be moot to argue that Sunyich discloses the transmission of customer preferences from the database of the home network to the database of the provider network.

If the examiner still feels that that the Sunyich reference discloses both a database that is part of a provider network and a database that is part of a home network or if the Examiner still feels that the Sunyich reference discloses the transmission of customer preferences from a database of the home network to the database of the provider network, Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that it is the duty of the Examiner to specifically point out each and every limitation of a claim being rejected as per §1.104(c)(2) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations and section 707 of the M.P.E.P., which explicitly states that "the particular part relied on must be designated" and "the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified".

As shown above, the Sunyich reference fails to teach many of the limitations of Applicant's independent claim 1 and, hence, cannot anticipate Applicant's independent claim 1. Hence, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is in allowable form, and requests allowance thereof. Applicant also submits that claims 2-7 are in allowable form as they depend from an allowable claim. Hence, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to remove the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection with respect to claims 1-7.

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REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2003/0149576 A1 (Sunyich). Claims 11-17 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2003/0149576 A1 (Sunyich) in view of US 2003/0109938 A1 (Daum et al). Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2003/0149576 A1 (Sunyich) in view of US 2003/0109938 A1 (Daum et al), and further in view of Lee et al., U.S. Patent 4,899,373. To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), each and every element of the claims must be addressed through known prior art or be recognized as an obvious variation thereof. Applicant contends that Sunyich either singly or in the above-identified specific combinations with Daum or Lee fail to provide many of the limitations of Applicant's rejected claims.

Applicant wishes to note that the above-mentioned arguments with respect to claim 1 substantially apply to dependent claims 9 and 10 as they inherit all the limitations of the claim from which they depend. Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious from Sunyich's teachings to have a database storing preferred office equipment/supplies or preferred configuration of a PC that is part of a provider network and a database storing preferred office equipment or supplies that is part of a home network. Additionally, Applicant also submits that it would not have been obvious from Sunyich's teachings to transmit preferred office equipment/supplies or preferred configuration of a PC from a database of the home network to the database of the provider network

Daum teaches an apparatus for controlling an appliance based on the transmission of command fields from a source intended for at least one appliance. Figure 20 of Daum details the functionality of the source, which is envisioned in various embodiments as being used in the monitoring, control, and diagnosis of appliances. Based on a review of the entire Daum reference, Applicant submits that Daum merely teaches the remote monitoring, remote controlling, and/or remote diagnosis of appliances such as ovens, microwaves, air conditioners, or refrigerators.

By contrast, claim 11 of the present invention provides for an automated booking system for guest accommodations, wherein the system comprises a <u>home network of a customer</u>, the home network interconnecting home appliances having user programmable settings; a guest accommodation which can be automatically booked by the system and used by the customer for a period of time and which can be provided with guest appliances; a provider network of an accommodations provider, the <u>provider network having a data base</u>, the guest appliances of the guest accommodations are connected to the provider network; reservation means in communication with a home network of a customer and the provider network for reserving the guest accommodations for a period of use; <u>settings transmission means for transmitting the user programmable settings of the home appliances of the customer to the provider data base</u>; and <u>means for downloading the user programmable settings from the provider data base into the guest appliances of the guest accommodations for programming the appliances of the guest accommodations at the time of the customer's use of the accommodations</u>.

Also, by contrast to the Daum reference, claim 25 of the present invention provides for an automated booking system for guest accommodations, wherein the system comprises: <u>a home</u>

network having a data base of customer preferences; a guest accommodation which can be automatically booked by the system and used by the customer for a period of time; a provider network of a guest accommodations reservation provider having a data base for customer preferences; reserving means for accommodations between the home network and the provider network for reserving the guest accommodations for a period of use; preference transmission means for transmitting customer preferences from the data base of the home network to the data base of the provider network; and means for accessing the provider data base for providing the accommodations depending on the customer preferences.

Applicant wishes to note that the arguments presented with respect to independent claim 1 substantially apply to independent claims 11 and 25 as they recite many of the features of claim 1.

Further, Applicant agrees with the Examiner's statement on pages 5-6 of the Office Action that Daum teaches a network that transmits commands between a source and appliances. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that it would have been obvious to have modified the system of Sunyich to include the preferences from the home network of the customer.

Applicant is unsure how the Examiner equates the combination of Daum's remotely controlled, monitored, and/or diagnosed appliances with Sunyich's hotel and lodging facility that is able to personalize and pre-condition a hotel room for a guest to Applicant's claims 11 and 25 that teach the transmission of user programmable settings from a home network of a customer to a data base in a provider network, wherein the programmable settings are downloaded to the

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appliances.   As mentioned earlier, the Daum reference merely teaches the monitoring, controlling, and/or remote diagnosis of appliances using a source over a network. In other words, according to Daum, an appliance such as a dishwasher can be controlled, monitored, or diagnosed (in case of a fault) via a source over a network. However, there is no teaching or motivation to modify Daum's appliances to download programmable settings from a provider data base, wherein the provider data base receives the programmable settings from a home network. Absent such a showing, Applicant submits that the combination of Sunyich and Daum cannot teach each and every limitation of the present invention.

Additionally, as stated above, the appliances of Daum are able to receive command fields, wherein such command fields are used to control, monitor, and/or diagnose the appliances. The Examiner's attention is directed to the paragraphs 36-47 of Daum, which outlines the various command fields. It should be noted that the 16-Bit Field CMD is used to define commands to be implemented in an appliance. It should also be noted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Daum for utilizing any of the command fields, including the CMD field, to transmit user programmable settings to a provider database, which in turn downloads such received programmable settings onto appliances at another site. Absent such a showing, Applicant submits that the combination of Sunyich and Daum cannot teach each and every limitation of the rejected claims 11-17 and 20-25.

As shown above, the combination of Sunyich and Daum fails to teach many of the limitations of Applicant's independent claims 11 and 25 and, hence, cannot render obvious Applicant's independent claims 11 and 25. Hence, Applicant submits that independent claims 11 and 35 are in allowable form, and requests allowance thereof. Applicant also submits that claims

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12-17 and 20-24 are in allowable form as they depend from an allowable claim. Hence, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to remove the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection with respect to claims 11-17 and 20-25.

With respect to claims 18 and 19, the Examiner has used the Lee reference for its teaching of "a database with a customer's programmed speed dials". Lee provides for a data base remote from a local exchange for storing personalized feature data together with a subscriber's personal identification number such as a credit card number. However, there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation in Lee for modifying the data base to transmit a customer's programmed speed dials to a provider database, which in turn downloads the customer's programmed speed dials onto a telephone at another site. Absent such a showing, Applicant submits that the combination of Sunyich, Daum, and Lee cannot teach each and every limitation of rejected claims 18-19. Hence, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to remove the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection with respect to claims 18-19.

SUMMARY

As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicant's presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.
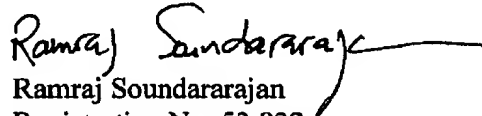
As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 12-0010.

Docket: US 018141
Application: 09/966,613

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not

hesitate to contact applicant's representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

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